

CertHE Foundation Acting (Stage & Screen)

Stage One: Self-tape Audition Guidelines

2025 Entry

Thank you for your interest in training with us – we're delighted to invite you to the first stage of our auditions.

Stage One: Self-tape

Please record the pieces outlined below for your self-tape and combine all four items on to one self-tape. Please submit this within ten days of the date you receive your invitation.

You should complete the submission form at the end of this document, save it following the naming guidelines, and upload it to our applicant portal.

1. Identifier

Please state your name directly to camera.

Tell us which course you are most interested in studying at LIPA, and why.

Tell us the titles of the three pieces you are performing for us.

2. Contemporary speech (no longer than 2 minutes)

Please choose a speech from a play written after 2000. This play should reflect your own age and life experiences. We recommended that you use a monologue in which your character is talking to another character in the play for two minutes, without them exchanging dialogue with you in that time, rather than a character that is talking to the "audience" for two minutes.

3. Verse speech (no longer than 2 minutes)

Please choose a two-minute verse speech, which demonstrates your ability to interpret heightened forms of speech and to communicate images and stories. Your selection is not restricted to conventional verse (i.e. Shakespeare), but can include contemporary verse, such as works by Inua Ellams and Kae Tempest. The verse speech may be, but is not limited to:

- Spoken word
- Modern, classical and performance poetry
- Song lyrics
- Shakespeare

Most importantly, ensure there is a narrative journey and that you tell a story.

4. Self-created piece (no longer than 2 minutes)

Please create and perform an original piece in response to one of the two stimuli provided below (you may choose to combine these).

Stimulus 1:



Stimulus 2:

Hurricane Hits England (Extract) by Grace Nichols

It took a hurricane, to bring her closer

To the landscape

Half the night she lay awake,

The howling ship of the wind,

Its gathering rage,

Like some dark ancestral spectre,

Fearful and reassuring

Here are a few hints and tips to help you create this piece:

- Ensure your piece expresses an essential quality of who you are, and where you believe your place is in the world you inhabit.
- Avoid a 'talking head' performance piece. In other words, don't just perform the piece as merely a spoken monologue, try to turn your ideas into performed images.
- Movement, sound, spoken word, song, music and gesture can all be part of your self-created piece.

Submitting your Stage One: Self-tape

Your identifier and three pieces should be edited together into one single video file. Please upload your self-tape to a video hosting platform (e.g. YouTube or Vimeo). If using YouTube, please upload your clips as 'unlisted' and ensure that this is viewable until 31 August 2025. Please do not send us links to WeTransfer or email attachments.

Complete and attached the submission form (at the end of this document), including the link to the recording. Please save and name the submission form in capital letters with your SURNAME-FORENAME, followed by the word 'SELFTAPE' e.g. SMITH-JANE. SELFTAPE and upload this to our applicant portal. Details about the applicant portal have been emailed to you.

Next steps

A selection of candidates will be asked to visit LIPA for a Stage Two recall audition, or at one of our overseas audition events planned in the USA, Norway and Hong Kong. Alternatively, for International applicants only, an online, live recall will be offered.

Feedback

Unfortunately, due to the high volume of applications we receive, we are unable to offer feedback if your application is unsuccessful this year.

Any questions?

For applicants from within the UK please email our Admissions Team:
admissions@lipa.ac.uk

For applicants from outside of the UK, please email our International Team:
international@lipa.ac.uk

You can also reach us by phone by calling +44 (0)151 330 3000 and asking for either the Admissions or International Teams as appropriate.

There is **no audition fee** for any stage of our audition process.

Good luck and we look forward to seeing you.



Will Hammond
Director of the School of Performance

How to record your self-tape

We want to be able to see and hear you as if you were in front of us at an audition, but you don't need expensive equipment to do this. You can shoot this on a smartphone but please use the back camera, which is usually of higher quality than the front facing one. If you have access to a DSLR or a good quality camera that's great, but please do not use a laptop or webcam. Please follow these tips:

- Hair: Make sure it doesn't cover your face.
- Lighting: Shoot with a light source in front of you, not behind (you'll be in silhouette) or off to one side. Avoid harsh shadows and/or fluorescent lights directly overhead. Natural light is best.
- Sound: Good sound is vital so find somewhere quiet with no background noise. If you use an external microphone it needs to be as close as possible (1-2m).
- Background: Use a plain, clear and uncluttered background. Make sure that your top contrasts with the background (if it's a white background wear a colourful top, if it's a black background don't wear black or a very dark colour).
- Landscape: always shoot your tape landscape, not portrait (horizontal, not vertical).
- Eyeline: Your lines should be fed slightly to the left or right of the camera. This is to open your face up to the camera without looking down the lens.
- Props: Don't allow any props to distract from the action.
- Keep it steady: Ideally use a tripod or aim to keep the camera level and steady.
- Medium – close-up: Don't use the digital zoom - if you need to get closer then move the camera closer. It is important your framing is correct, as shown below.





THE LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE
FOR PERFORMING ARTS

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Please enter the information below carefully.

When you save this document, please rename it using capital letters with your SURNAME-FORENAME, followed by the word 'SELFTAPE' e.g. SMITH-JOHN.SELFTAPE.

Please submit this within **ten days** of receiving your invitation to submit a self-tape. Please submit your completed form to our applicant portal using your personal log in details, provided to you previously. Please enter the information below carefully.

Your Details

Full Name

Date of
birth

LIPA ID
Number

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Self-tape link

The link should be provided via a hosting service such as YouTube, and not a service where the link will expire as we may need to access your link more than once. Please ensure that this is viewable until 31 August 2025.

Link to self-tape